THE PROTESTANT CEMETERY OF JEREZ

Jacob Lindegaard[1] was buried in 1889 in the old Protestant cemetery of Jerez. The photo at left is of its façade as it existed in the early 1940s.[2] At that time people without the means to purchase their own coffin were interred in large common graves. But Jacob was laid to rest in his own casket, as mentioned in his burial permit.

The Protestant cemetery was part of the general cemetery of Santo Domingo, located on the street of the same name. In 1936 with the advent of the Franco regime, the decision was made to relocate the general cemetery[3] (perhaps to erase the memory of the more than four hundred victims killed by the regime earlier that same year and buried there in mass graves).

It was replaced in 1945 by the cemetery of *Nuestra Señora de la Merced* (our Lady of Mercy), four kilometers west of it, and where there is also a small section for Protestant burials.[4]

The old cemetery was dismantled in the 1970s and human remains were transferred to the new cemetery (but excavations were superficial and apparently left many remains and mass graves behind). In the 1980s wholesale bulldozer demolitions obliterated tombstones, monuments, and other grave markers.[3]

Concerning the transfer of remains from the old cemetery, Jose Luis Jimenez Garcia, Jerez municipal archivist, wrote in 2021, in a personal communication to the author, that responsibility for this was left to relatives, and that unclaimed remains were placed in a mass grave. In his opinion, few remains of Protestants were transferred to the new cemetery. In the new cemetery, the graves in the Protestant section are apparently all of English nationals and the oldest grave is from 1887.[5]

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[1] See "Jacob Lindegaard (1853 – 1889) – From Denmark To Spain": https://our-lindegaard-ancestry.webnode.page/blank-page/

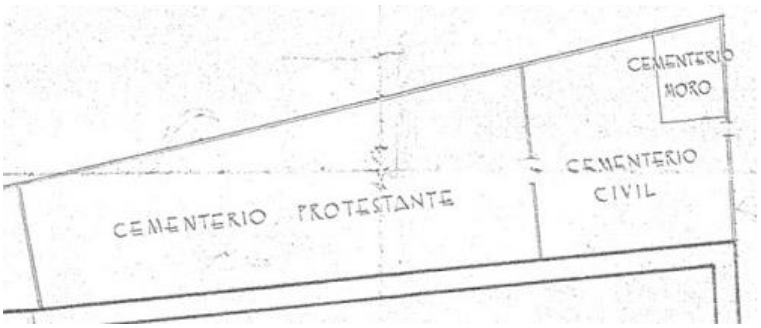
[2] Fachada del cementerio protestante de Jerez, en los años 40, Archivo J.L. Jiménez, in "El cementerio protestante de Jerez, 150 años de historia", *Protestante Digital:* https://web.archive.org/web/20260419175127/https://protestantedigital.com/ciudades/30715/el-cementerio-protestante-de-jerez-150-antildeos-de-historia

[3] Enrique Ventosa Hierro, "El antiguo Cementerio de Santo Domingo de Jerez", *Jerez Sin Fronteras*, 3 February 2019: https://web.archive.org/web/20210209024218/https://www.jerezsinfronteras.es/cementerio-santo-domingo/

[4] José Luis Jiménez, "150 años del cementerio protestante de Jerez", *Diario de Jerez,* 15 March 2014: https://web.archive.org/web/20260419175441/https://www.diariodejerez.es/opinion/articulos/anos-cementerio-protestante-jerez_0_788921160.html

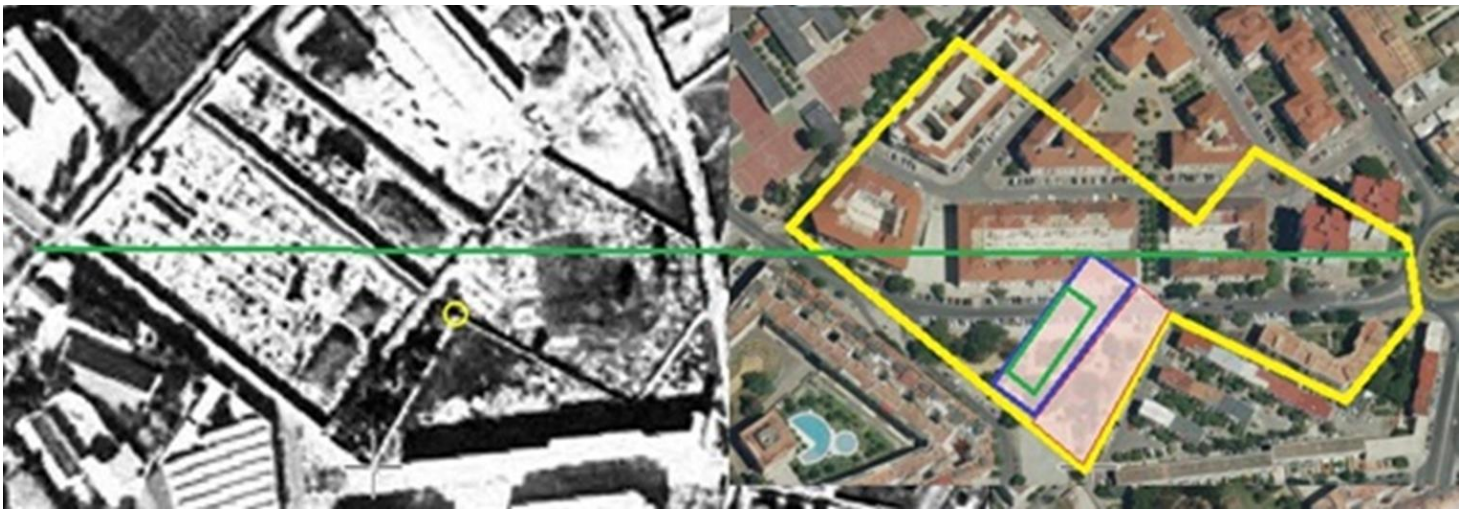
[5] Website of the Municipal Cemetery of Jerez de la Frontera: https://web.archive.org/web/20260419175723/https://entrepiedrasycipreses.com/cementerio-municipal-jerez-la-frontera/

Nowadays members of the *Grupo de Memorialistas de Jerez* (Group of Jerez Memorialists) are trying to locate the mass graves where the victims of the Franco regime were buried. Their research allows us to know more about the old cemetery and the location of its Protestant section.[6] In the aerial photo they provide of the general area from around 1950 or 1952, with the portion representing the different sections of the Santo Domingo cemetery reproduced at right, the courtyard of the protestant cemetery, a small narrow rectangle, is indicated by #9.



It included the Moorish and civil cemeteries, as seen in the blueprint at left.[7]

In the composite image below, the aerial photo of the old cemetery (at left) is layered at right (outlined in yellow), over a current map of the same area, with the protestant cemetery represented by the white rectangle at bottom right within the yellow outline.



[6] Grupo de Memorialistas de Jerez, “Datos sobre el cementerio de Santo Domingo de Jerez (1936)”, Blog post, 13 August 2020: *https://web.archive.org/web/20260419180035/https://memorialistasenjerez.blogspot.com/2020/08/datos-sobre-el-cementerio-de-santo.html*

[7] Plataforma por la memoria democrática de Jerez, “Situación de las fosas en el cementerio antiguo de Jerez”, Blog post, 20 July 2017: *https://web.archive.org/web/20260419172938/https://asesoriavictimasfranquismojerez.blogspot.com/2017/07/situacion-de-las-fosas-en-el-cementerio.html*

This area corresponds to a diagonal strip that takes up a little more than a third of the current *Parque Scout* (Scout Park, which the Group wants to rename in honor of Franco's victims) along its eastern border, see the current aerial view at left[8] and the photo below taken from the park's northeast corner.[9]

Excavations still continue in that area and in others to locate the mass graves of Franco's victims.

Jacob's descendants visiting Jerez may wish to honor him by taking a walk in that area of the park corresponding to the old Protestant cemetery, and laying a flower beneath a tree in his memory (the aerial photo above shows "Artemisa Florist" conveniently located just west of the park!). A visit could also be made to the Protestant section of the new cemetery, just in case his grave could have been moved there.

[8] Google Maps, Aerial photo of *Parque Scout* and its surroundings, Jerez: *https://bit.ly/47QOtLu*
[9] Google Maps, View of *Parque Scout* from its northeastern corner, Jerez: *http://bit.ly/43iSJ4U*